

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3839

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, NATO

SUBJ: SACEUR'S REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE

AS STATED IN SEPTEL, THERE FOLLOWS BELOW TEXT OF ASYG HUMPHREYS' DRAFT REPEAT DRAFT PO (PROVIDED TO US BY HIM ON A PERSONAL BASIS) ON THE REVISION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SACEUR AND SACLANT AND OF THE DEFINITIONS OF THE VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF NATO FORCES.

BEGIN TEXT:

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL HAVE RECEIVED MCM-37-75, MC 53/1 (MILITARY DECISION) AND MC 58/1 (MILITARY DECISION). THESE CONTAIN RESPECTIVELY PROPOSALS FOR THE REVISION OF THE DEFINITIONS OF THE VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF NATO FORCES AND FOR THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF SACEUR AND SACLANT. THESE DOCUMENTS ARE, TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, INTERRELATED AND I HAVE THEREFORE CONSIDERED IT CONVENIENT TO DISCUSS ALL THREE ISSUES IN ONE MEMORANDUM.

NATO FORCES

2. THE DEFINITIONS OF THE VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF NATO FORCES

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ARE CONTAINED IN THE "OVERALL ORGANIZATION OF THE INTEGRATED NATO FORCES" (MC TUX3, SECTION V). DURING DISCUSSION OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE DOCUMENT IN 1970 THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO THESE DEFINITIONS WHICH IN THE VIEW OF

THE THEN SECRETARY GENERAL PRESENTED A CONSIDERABLE RISK OF MIS-UNDERSTANDING, PARTICULARLY CONCERNING THE DEGREE OF OPERATIONAL COMMAND WHICH THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS COULD EXERCISE OVER THE VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF FORCES; THERE WERE ALSO RELATED DIFFICULTIES IN SUBMITTING REPLIES TO THE ANNUAL DEFENCE PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE. THE ISSUES WERE FULLY SET OUT IN PO/70/57. IN THE EVENT THE DEFINITIONS SET OUT IN MC 57/3 WERE LEFT UNCHANGED ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE WOULD CLARIFY THE SITUATION WHEN REVIEWING THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS (PO/70/472 REFERS).

3. THE NEW DEFINITIONS PROPOSED BY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE IN MCM-37-75 CLARIFY THE ISSUES MENTIONED ABOVE AND I UNDERSTAND THAT THEY HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED INTO THIS YEAR'S DEFENCE PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE IN ANTICIPATION OF THE APPROVAL OF THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE. I THEREFORE PROPOSE THAT THE RECOMMENDATION PUT FORWARD BY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE BE APPROVED.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF SACEUR AND SACLAN

4. IN 1971 THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE AGREED THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE SHOULD PUT FORWARD REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SACEUR AND SACLAN. THE RELEVANT DECISION IS SET OUT IN PO/71/379 WHERE IT WAS STATED THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO UPDATE THE COMMAND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS CONCERNED IN VIEW OF THE DE FACTO CHANGES WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE SINCE THE ORIGINAL TERMS OF REFERENCE WERE ISSUED IN 1953 AND 1977. AT THE SAME TIME IT WAS AGREED THAT INCONSISTENCIES MUST BE AVOIDED WITH SECTION IV OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE LONDON CONFERENCE AND THE RELATED COUNCIL RESOLUTION (C-M(58)85(FINAL)) IN WHICH SACEUR'S AUTHORITY AND POWERS ARE EMBODIED.

5. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THE REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SACLAN AND RECOMMEND THAT THE DOCUMENT MC 58/1 BE APPROVED.

6. INsofar AS THE REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SACEUR ARE CONCERNED PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL NOTE THAT WHILST THE GENERAL CONTENT FALLS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SECTION IV
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OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE LONDON CONFERENCE WHICH FORMS PART OF THE PARIS AGREEMENTS AND THAT THERE ARE SOME USEFUL CLARIFICATIONS OF SACEUR'S POWERS CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPHS 14 AND 16 OF THE NEW DOCUMENT, THE MILITARY COMMITTEE HAS INTRODUCED CERTAIN CHANGES WHICH APPEAR TO ALTER THE AUTHORITY OF SACEUR. IN PARTICULAR SACEUR'S AUTHORITY HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT CIRCUMSCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 13(H) AND (I) OF MC 53/1 WHICH SHOULD BE COMPARED WITH THE EXTENT OF AUTHORITY SET OUT IN PARAGRAPH 15(H) AND (I) OF HIS ORIGINAL TERMS OF REFERENCE - MC 53 - WHICH REFLECT SACEUR'S POWERS GIVEN TO HIM UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENTS.

7. I AM NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR WHETHER THE CHANGES PROPOSED

ARE OF A MINOR NATURE AND THEREFORE NOT OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE

TO WARRANT CHANGING THE TREATY DOCUMENTS OR WHETHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES ARE INVOLVED. IN ANY EVENT I BELIEVE THAT PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL WISH TO DISCUSS THE POLITICAL ASPECTS INVOLVED AND, IN PARTICULAR, WHETHER IT IS APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME TO WEAKEN IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER THE CENTRAL AUTHORITY INVESTED IN THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS; IN MORE GENERAL TERMS IT SHOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED WHETHER IT IS JUSTIFIABLE TO ESTABLISH A PRECEDENT THAT THE PARIS AGREEMENTS SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO ALTERATION OTHER THAN THAT NECESSARY TO TAKE COGNIZANCE OF DE FACTO CHANGES WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE THE AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED. ACCORDINGLY I SUGGEST IT WOULD BE SUITABLE FOR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF DISCUSSING IN THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE THE PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE.

8. IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE AND UNLESS I HEAR TO THE CONTRARY BY I PROPOSE THAT IT BE RECORDED THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE APPROVE THE NEW DEFINITIONS SET OUT IN MCM-37-75 AND THE REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SACLANT SET OUT IN MC 58/1, AND THAT PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY OF DISCUSSING SACEUR'S TERMS OF REFERENCE SET OUT IN MC 53/1 WHICH WILL BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA OF THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE AT A FUTURE DATE.
END TEXTBRUCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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